(e) the steps contemplated if any, towards achieving the goals of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan especially to bring a larger number of children under school curriculum and minimize drop out rate in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented in all the districts in Jharkhand. The State Government has constructed 226 school buildings and 11284 additional classrooms under SSA, so far. Drinking water facility in 3447 schools and toilet facilities in 4968 schools have been provided. 729508 children have been enrolled in Education Guarantee Scheme Centres. The Pupil-Teacher Ratio as per reports of the State Government is 47:1. The number of teachers appointed by the State Government under SSA, so far is 31303.

Opening of National Institute of Technology Institutions

2788. SHRIMATI. S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had decided to open more National Institute of Technology Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to take over of engineering colleges to convert into NITs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has not decided to open more National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in the Country. However, on receipt of specific requests from State Govenrments for upgradation/conversion of the existing Engineering Colleges to that of NITs, the Central Government may consider such proposals. The Government of India conducts feasibility study and if the said Institute has adequate infrastructure facilities at par with the other National Institutes, its conversion/upgradation as NIT would be placed before the Union Cabinet for its consideration and approval.